CLAIMS

1. An ocular lens material comprising a siloxane-containing polymer obtained by polymerizing a monomer mixture containing (A) a siloxane macromonomer having at least two active unsaturated groups and a number average molecular weight of 2,000 to 100,000; and (B) a vinyl ester of lower fatty acid as essential components.

2. The ocular lens material of Claim 1, wherein said monomer mixture further contains (C) a silicon-containing monomer.

3. The ocular lens material of Claim 1, wherein said monomer mixture further contains (D) a fluorine-containing monomer.

4. The ocular lens material of Claim 2, wherein the weight ratio of the total of said siloxane macromonomer (A) and said silicon-containing monomer (C) to said vinyl ester of lower fatty acid (B), the total weight of (A) and (C)/the weight of (B), is 30/70 to 90/10.

5. The ocular lens material of Claim 3, wherein the weight ratio of the total of said siloxane macromonomer (A), said vinyl ester of lower fatty acid (B) and said silicon-containing monomer (C) to said fluorine-containing monomer (D), the total weight of (A), (B) and (C)/the weight of (D), is at least 20/80.

6. The ocular lens material of Claim 2, wherein the weight

ratio of said siloxane macromonomer (A) to said silicon-containing monomer (C), the weight of (A)/the weight of (C), is at least 20/80.

7. The ocular lens material of Claim 1, wherein said siloxane macromonomer (A) is a macromonomer represented by the formula (I-1):

$$A^1\text{-}\ (\text{-}U^1\text{-}S^1\text{-})_n\ \text{-}U^2\text{-}S^2\text{-}U^3\text{-}A^2 \qquad (I\text{-}1)$$

wherein each of A^1 and A^2 is independently an active unsaturated group, an active unsaturated group having an alkylene group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or an active unsaturated group having an alkylene glycol group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

U^1 is a diurethane type group which contains urethane bonds formed with adjacent A^1 and adjacent S^1 on both sides or which contains urethane bonds with adjacent two S^1 on both sides;

U^2 is a diurethane type group which contains urethane bonds formed with adjacent A^1 and adjacent S^2 on both sides or which contains urethane bonds with adjacent S^1 and adjacent S^2 on both sides;

U^3 is a diurethane type group which contains urethane bonds formed with adjacent S^2 and adjacent A^2 on both sides;

each of S^1 and S^2 is independently a group represented by the formula:

$$-R^1-O-R^2-\left(\begin{array}{c} R^3 \\ | \\ SiO \\ | \\ R^4 \end{array}\right)_x\left(\begin{array}{c} R^5 \\ | \\ SiO \\ | \\ R^6 \end{array}\right)_y \begin{array}{c} R^7 \\ | \\ Si-R^2-O-R^1- \\ | \\ R^8 \end{array}$$

in which each of R^1 and R^2 is independently an alkylene group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, each of R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 is independently a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may be substituted with a fluorine atom, or a group represented by the formula:

$$A^3\text{-}U^4\text{-}R^1\text{-}O\text{-}R^2\text{-}$$

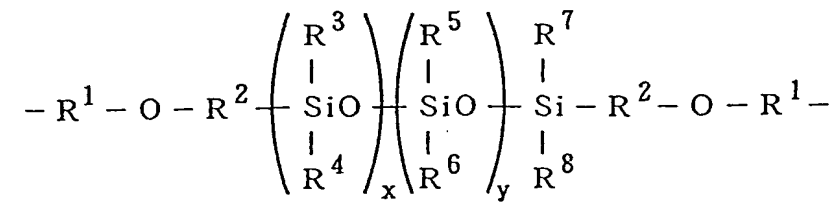
in which A^3 is an active unsaturated group, an active unsaturated group having an alkylene group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or an active unsaturated group having an alkylene glycol group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, U^4 is a urethane type group which contains urethane bonds formed with adjacent A^3 and adjacent R^1 on both sides, each of R^1 and R^2 is the same as the above, x is an integer of 1 to 1500, y is 0 or an integer of 1 to 1499, and x + y is an integer of 1 to 1500; and

n is 0 or an integer of 1 to 10; or

a macromonomer represented by the formula (I-2):

$$B^1\text{-}S^3\text{-}B^1 \qquad \text{(I-2)}$$

wherein B^1 is an active unsaturated group having urethane bond, and S^3 is a group represented by the formula:

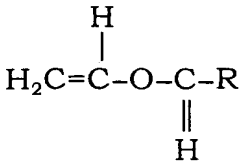


in which each of R^1 and R^2 is independently an alkylene group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, each of R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 is independently a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may be substituted with a fluorine atom, or a group represented by the formula:

$$A^3\text{-}U^4\text{-}R^1\text{-}O\text{-}R^2\text{-}$$

in which A^3 is an active unsaturated group, an active unsaturated group having an alkylene group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or an active unsaturated group having an alkylene glycol group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, U^4 is a urethane type group which contains urethane bonds formed with adjacent A^3 and adjacent R^1 on both sides, each of R^1 and R^2 is the same as the above, x is an integer of 1 to 1500, y is 0 or an integer of 1 to 1499, and x + y is an integer of 1 to 1500.

8. The ocular lens material of Claim 1, wherein said vinyl ester of lower fatty acid (B) is a compound represented by the formula (II):



(II)

wherein R is hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 15 carbon atoms which may be substituted with a halogen atom.

9. The ocular lens material of Claim 1, wherein said vinyl ester of lower fatty acid (B) is vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate or vinyl pivalate.

10. The ocular lens material of Claim 2, wherein said silicon-containing monomer (C) is a silicon-containing (meth)acrylate.

11. The ocular lens material of Claim 2, wherein said silicon-containing monomer (C) is tris(trimethylsiloxy)silylpropyl acrylate.

12. The ocular lens material of Claim 3, wherein said fluorine-containing monomer (D) is a fluoroalkyl (meth)acrylate.

13. An ocular lens material comprising a polymer prepared by saponifying a siloxane-containing polymer obtained by polymerizing a monomer mixture containing
(A) a siloxane macromonomer having at least two active unsaturated groups and a number average molecular weight of 2,000 to 100,000; and
(B) a vinyl ester of lower fatty acid
as essential components.

14. A process for producing an ocular lens material, characterized by preparing a siloxane-containing polymer by polymerization of a monomer mixture containing
(A) a siloxane macromonomer having at least two active unsaturated groups and a number average molecular weight of 2,000 to 100,000; and
(B) a vinyl ester of lower fatty acid
as essential components; and then
subjecting said siloxane-containing polymer to saponification.

15. The process of Claim 14, wherein said saponification is

carried out by alkali treatment.

16. The process of Claim 15, wherein a methanol aqueous solution containing sodium hydroxide in a concentration of 0.01 to 1 mol/L is used for said alkali treatment as a treatment solution.

17. The process of Claim 16, wherein the volume ratio of methanol to water in said methanol aqueous solution, methanol/water, is 30/70 to 90/10.

18. The process of Claim 15, wherein after preparing said siloxane-containing polymer, a dye is dispersed in the siloxane-containing polymer and then, said dye is fixed to the siloxane-containing polymer during said saponification by said alkali treatment.

19. The process of Claim 14, wherein after preparing said siloxane-containing polymer, photo-irradiation is conducted and saponification is carried out subsequently.

20. The process of Claim 19, wherein said photo-irradiation is conducted by using ultraviolet ray whose wavelength is at most 380 nm.

21. The process of Claim 19, wherein said photo-irradiation is conducted out by using ultraviolet ray whose wavelength is at most 300 nm.

22. The process of Claim 19, wherein said photo-irradiation is

conducted out for 0.1 to 600 minutes.